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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Note verbale dated 10 March 2015 by the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to inform the President of the Human Rights Council that, in the context of the terrorist acts perpetrated continuously by terrorist armed groups such as the "Da`esh" organization, "the Nusra Front", "the Free Army" and "the Army of Islam" against the peaceful civilian citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic, terrorist groups belonging to the "Da`esh" organization launched terrorist assaults on the inhabitants of dozens of villages, including Tal Hermez, Tal Shamiram, Tal Rumman, Tal Nasri, Al-Aghibash, Touma Yelda, Al-Hawouz and Tal Kuran, and the town of Tal Tamr in the countryside of Hasaka Governorate, killing numerous innocent civilians and abducting about 200 civilians, including children and women. More than 690 families were displaced and the groups attacked places of worship and set fire to the historic church of Tal Hermez, which is considered to be one of the most ancient churches in Syria and the world as a whole. A list containing the names and other information concerning victims belonging to families from the above-mentioned villages in Hasaka Governorate and the outrages to which they were subjected by the terrorist organizations is attached hereto.

These crimes perpetrated against Syrian citizens are simply a continuation of the series of hideous crimes and human rights violations committed against the different components of the Syrian people. They constitute an attempt to sow discord, hatred and estrangement among the members of a single society, which has been renowned from ancient times for the deep-rooted traditions of harmony, affection and tolerance that have forged bonds between its different components. In the distant past, Syria and its people spread the alphabet to different parts of the world. They also spread religions to different regions of the world, bringing glad tidings of the messenger of love, Jesus Christ, and of the messenger of mercy, Muhammad (PBUH), the Seal of the Prophets. Christianity and Islam were propagated from Syria throughout the world with their messages of peace, mercy and love.

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These crimes add to the atrocities perpetrated by the armed terrorist groups, who set out to destroy religious sites, places of worship, tombs of holy men, the companions of the Prophet and Christian saints, and historical and cultural landmarks in Syria in order to inflict the greatest possible damage on the Syrian human heritage, its civilization, and the history and cultural identity of its people.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that these terrorist acts could not have been committed without the continuous provision of direct support, by States whose identity is known to all, to the terrorist organizations which are motivated by extremist ideologies. Syria considers that the international community and States that are opposed to terrorism, extremism and fanaticism have a duty to compel the States which support the blind terrorism that has been targeting Syria and its people for more than four years to stop providing them with financial support or support in the form of weapons, ammunition, training or information. They should also bring the necessary pressure to bear on States whose identity is well known to halt the flow of foreign terrorists into Syria. The international community must reaffirm its commitment to the fight against terrorism and against extremist terrorist organizations by engaging in full-scale cooperation and coordination in that regard with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which stands firm against the spread of international terrorism, and by strictly implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2199 (2015), which should not remain without effect.

In this context, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that it is perfectly willing to engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with parties who are earnestly and sincerely committed to combating and eliminating terrorism with a view to averting the evils of blind terrorism and the horrors of extremism that post a threat to civilization.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic requests the secretariat of the Human Rights Council to publish and circulate this note verbale in the official languages of the United Nations as a Human Rights Council document under item 3 of the agenda of the twenty-eighth session.